VIETNAM COURIER

April 27
1970
No. 266
7th Year

Information Weekly — E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

In this issue:

★ MAY DAY
Pages 4 and 5

★ DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA
Page 6

LENIN'S CENTENARY SOLEMNLY CELEBRATED IN HANOI

SPEECH BY TRUONG CHINH

THE centenary of Lenin was solemnly celebrated in Hanoi on April 21 jointly by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Executive Committee of the VNWP Hanoi Committee and the VNFF Hanoi Committee.

President Ton Duc Thang delivered the opening speech. Then Truong Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the VNWPCC, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee and Presidium member of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, took the floor.

He outlined Lenin's life and work and his great services to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet people and the international communist and workers' movement.

Analyzing Leninism and Lenin's theoretical propositions, Truong Chinh asserted:

"Leninism is Marxism in the stage of imperialism and proletarian revolution and in the epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism on a world scale."

He went on:

"Basing himself on the law of uneven development of capitalism, Lenin concluded that in the stage of imperialism **the revolution can carry the day, first in a single country or a number of countries,** but not in all countries at the same time. Therefore, the socialist revolution may break out first in an economically undeveloped country (and not necessarily in the most developed industrial country) if that country is the weakest link in the system of imperialism and if in that country the combined play of internal and international developments has created a revolutionary situation making it possible for the socialist revolution to erupt and triumph. This unique proposition of Lenin bears a theoretical and practical significance of paramount importance to the world revolution.

"... Lenin's theory on the **advance from the bourgeois democratic revolution to the proletarian revolution** is a compass for the communist and workers' parties to chart a correct revolutionary line, to combine the tasks of the struggle for democracy with those of the struggle for socialism and to rally all revolutionary forces under the leadership of the working class.

"... Lenin has armed us with the theory on the building of a **new-type Party of the working class** which regards Marxism (nowadays Marxism-Leninism) as the compass for every action which is organized according to the principle of democratic centralism, which observes strict discipline, ensures the unity in ideology and action in the Party, makes criticism and self-criticism the law of development of the Party and keeps in close touch with the broad masses of the people. Only with such a Party can it be possible to lead the revolution to victory, and achieve socialism and communism.

"If it is to lead the revolution to victory the working class must win the peasantry over to its side, turn the peasantry from a reserve force of the bourgeoisie into its own reserve force. To achieve the **worker-peasant alliance** is a matter of a decisive character for the consolidation of the working class' leadership of the revolution, and the peasant problem is a component part of the question of setting up and consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat.

"With his penetrating and comprehensive conception of proletarian revolution, Lenin has developed the national problem of Marxism into the **national and colonial problem** in the stage of imperialism in which the national-liberation movement has become an integral part of the world proletarian revolution. The colonial and dependent peoples, once having won political independence, **can advance to socialism through different transitional steps, bypassing the stage of capitalist development.** That is the road to genuine independence and freedom for them to take.

"... Lenin untiringly militated **on the one hand for the solidarity within the international communist and workers' movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism,** and on the other hand for the solidarity between the international working class and the oppressed peoples all over the world, because without such solidarity it is impossible to win victory over imperialism. He developed the slogan of Marx and Engels **"Workers of all countries, unite!"** into the **"Workers of all countries and oppressed peoples, unite!"**

Speaking of the impact of Leninism on the world situation, Truong Chinh stressed that "the name of Great Lenin has been associated with every revolutionary change in human society since the beginning of this century."

Truong Chinh then recalled the process of the application of Leninism in general and Lenin's theory on the national and colonial problems in particular by President Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Nam working-class party in leading the Vietnamese revolution.

He stressed:

"Basing itself on Lenin's proposition concerning the character of the epoch and on the characteristics of the world situation after World War Two, our Party has made a correct assessment of the **offensive posture of the world revolution and the three revolutionary trends in the world at present:** socialist revolution and socialist and communist construction in the countries of the socialist camp; the drive for national liberation, against imperialism and old and new colonialism in the colonial or dependent countries and in the nationalist countries; the movement for peace, democracy and socialism of the working class and people in the imperialist and capitalist countries.

"Allying patriotism to proletarian internationalism, our Party has pursued a **correct line of international solidarity,** resolutely safeguarding the purity of Marxism-Leninism, and at the same time, securing valuable assistance from the fraternal countries in the socialist camp, and sympathy and support from the world's peoples, including the American people, for our people's resistance war against US aggression, for national salvation. With regard to the other countries of

(Continued page 3)

Comrade TRUONG CHINH delivering his speech

DRVN GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ON LON NOL-MATAK CLIQUE'S ATROCITIES AGAINST VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS

WHILE launching an anti-Viet Nam campaign in search for a justification for their slandering and ove-throwing of the legal Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique ordered their agents to manhandle and massacre Vietnamese residents in Svay Rieng and many other places in Cambodia.

Since the March 18, 1970 coup d'état, they have been falsely charging Viet Nam with "aggression" against Cambodia and accusing Vietnamese residents of participation in "rebellions" with a view to frenziedly stepping up their anti-Viet Nam campaign and instigating the Khmer people "to exterminate" all Vietnamese residing on the Cambodian soil. They imposed curfews only on Vietnamese residents, and herded thousands of them into concentration camps; they shelled with artillery villages where Vietnamese lived; they even ordered their agents to pillage and burn Vietnamese houses, and went so far as to destroy Vietnamese Catholic churches. More savage still, they have repeatedly perpetrated numerous massacres; on April 10, they slaughtered more than 100 Vietnamese residents and wounded more than 200 others in Prasaut; on April 15, they secretly killed over one thousand Vietnamese residents and threw their corpses into the Mekong River; on April 16, they butchered over 100 Vietnamese residents and injured over 20 others in Takeo. What several Western correspondents have reported — and these reports have aroused strong public indignation — is only part of the truth about the most savage and

(Continued page 7)

TRI-CONTINENTAL PEOPLES' COMMON FRONT AGAINST U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM

IN face of the mounting world-wide movement of national liberation, the US-headed imperialist forces try to conceal their true colours as aggressors. More unassuming than old colonialism, neo-colonialism is all the more dangerous.

U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM, THE WORLD PEOPLES' ENEMY NUMBER ONE

THE first victim of US neo-colonialism, Latin America has since long become the back-yard where the North American monopolies rake in handsome profits from oil, ores, tropical products, etc.

The US octopus has spread its tentacles to Africa and Asia. There, working hand in glove with the French, British, Portuguese, Spanish, Belgian and Dutch imperialists while striving to kick them out, the US imperialists seek to safeguard their colonialist interests and stamp out the national-liberation drive.

They and their West German and South-African counterparts grant military aid to the Portuguese within the framework of NATO or lesser important alliances against substantial privileges in Portuguese colonies.

This does not mean that US neo-colonialism definitively drops the use of arms. It became most aggressive in the sixties of this century. We still remember its attempt to crush the Cuban socialist revolution by armed intervention (1961). It set up military bases in Thailand, dispatched US forces to Laos. In Viet Nam, its "special war" gave place to the "limited war" waged directly by a US expeditionary force. Genocidal crimes have been committed against the population in both zones of Viet Nam. The Dominican people will never forget the US "marines" landing on their island. Since April 1965, the Bolivian guerillas have been facing up to the US forces' sweeps murderous for the civilians.

Washington and the CIA have a hand in subversive activities and political assassinations, and sow hatred and dissension among peoples. Goulart in Brazil, N'Krumah in Ghana, Sukarno in Indonesia and recently Norodom Sihanouk, in Cambodia, etc. were on the list of their casualties. Over the last few years, the US has left no stone unturned to sabotage the economic and cultural structures of various African countries and India. It has set on foot such aggressive blocs as ASA (Asian States Association), ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), the Mekong project, etc., and binds to them many countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Facts have shown that US neo-colonialism is but Washington's fundamental policy whose purpose it is to secure markets, grab raw materials and achieve world hegemony.

COMBAT AGAINST U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM, A PRIMARY TASK OF THE NATIONS

THE general declaration of the Conference of Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America held in Havana in January 1966 said: "Their experience has brought the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America the realization that the main bulwark of oppression and international reaction is US imperialism, the sworn enemy of all peoples. To overthrow the rule of US imperialism is a matter decisive for the complete and definitive victory of the anti-imperialist efforts in three continents and the energies of their peoples should be bent to this end."

At present US neo-colonialism is running the gauntlet everywhere in the world and in several places it has been met by the peoples with arms in hands.

For two decades, the Vietnamese people have been fighting side by side with the peoples of Laos, Cambodia and other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. They have frustrated US intervention and aggression and driven the US into an impasse and utter isolation.

The triumph of the Cuban revolution has impelled forward the armed struggle in Latin America. The patriotic armed forces in Venezuela, Guatemala, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic have been growing more aggressive while preserving and increasing their own strength. In Chile, Peru, Colombia, the peasants and farm hands demand the expropriation of latifundia owners. In some localities, they themselves take the law unto their hands and seize lands and fight the police of the US-dominated native dictatorial regime.

The patriotic armed forces in Angola, Mozambique, (Bissau) Guinea, Cape Verde frequently storm Portuguese posts and intercept their US-supported units. The peoples of Sudan and Libya have carved for themselves a way out of the US orbit. The struggle against the US-backed racist governments in Rhodesia, South Africa, South-West Africa is gaining in magnitude.

In Japan, a powerful wave of protest has risen against US imperialism and the Sato reactionary government, for the return of the big US base of Okinawa and cancellation of the US Japanese "Security Treaty."

The people of the Korean People's Democratic Republic are co-ordinating actions with their countrymen in South Korea in the growing resistance led by the South Korean Revolutionary People's Party against dictator Pak Jung Hi and US interference. The capture of the *Pueblo* and downing of the EC.121 spy plane have virtually foiled the US plan for provocations and espionage.

In the Philippines, a dependable ally of the US, since early 1970 hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets to demand that the Marcos administration enforce democratic freedoms and protest against US occupation and transformation of the country into a US military base.

The Arab peoples have been stubbornly resisting the Israeli aggressors backed by Washington. The South Yemen Republic has severed diplomatic relations with the US and nationalized foreign banks and firms.

A VALUABLE SUPPORT FOR, AND SOLIDARITY WITH, THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

THIS rising national-liberation effervescence of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America is giving a strong stimulus to the Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression.

Since the founding of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN, the Vietnamese revolution has been closely linked with the revolutionary movement of the peoples in the three continents.

The Vietnamese people are aware that the solidarity and mutual support of the oppressed peoples is a guarantee of their success.

The tri-continental peoples have been giving constant support to Viet Nam and international conferences have been frequently held to condemn US aggression. The widespread solidarity of these peoples has been shown in blood donations and money-raising drives for Viet Nam.

The socialist countries' support to us has been comprehensive and unreserved. The Cuban people always bear in mind the following statement by Fidel Castro: "Under any circumstances, the Cuban people will show unqualified solidarity with, and lend unstinted support to, the Vietnamese." The "ten million tons of sugar — ten years' anti-US resistance" production drive has been associated with the ten years' anti-US effort of the South Vietnamese people led by the NFL (December 1960). The last bag of the 10 million tons of sugar will be sent to Viet Nam as a token of this association.

On the Indochinese peninsula the Lao, Khmer and Vietnamese peoples have for long been friendly neighbours bound by close geographical, historical and cultural relations, and by an anti-US militant solidarity which has kept strengthening since the Indochinese People's Conference in March 1965. The intensification of the war in Laos and recent coup d'état at Phnom Penh have proved that US imperialism is resolved to lord it over Indochina and South-East Asia.

The 2,300-million population of three continents have set up with the Vietnamese a front to fight against US neo-colonialism. Houari Boumedienne, President of the National Revolutionary Council of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic said: "The Algerian people live the Vietnamese drama physically and morally as they share the sufferings of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. That is why the policy of our country will always be against colonialism and neo-colonialism. Socialist and revolutionary Algeria will remain beside the peoples battling for independence and sovereignty." Receiving on July 7, 1969 the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, President Nasser said: "The struggle of the Vietnamese people against a powerful imperialism has set a shining example for the peoples fighting for independence and freedom. The UAR government and people will continue to support the Vietnamese people's battle for national liberation and reunification till total victory." The Venezuelan guerillas kidnapped in the heart of Caracas US lieutenant-colonel Smolen in reprisal of the arrest of the young worker Nguyen Van Troi by the Saigon puppet administration. At present the peoples of Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Puerto Rico are strongly protesting against the US sending of their sons to Viet Nam as cannon-fodder. The withdrawal from South Viet Nam of the "Philcag" by the Manila government has been a success of both the Filipino and Vietnamese people.

There are many other moving tokens of the solidarity of the tri-continental peoples with the Vietnamese people. The (Bissau) Guinean patriots attacked the Bissau airfield in sign of protest against US air raids on the DRVN. While demanding the cancellation of the US-Japan Security Treaty, the Japanese people condemned the complicity of the Sato government with Washington in the Viet Nam war. In honour of the late President Ho Chi Minh, the great Vietnamese leader, the Palestinian guerillas mounted a series of attacks against the Israeli aggressors.

THE Vietnamese people highly and gratefully appreciate this solidarity and support of the tricontinental peoples

Together with the backing and aid of socialist countries and the whole of progressive mankind, this is an inestimable encouragement for the Vietnamese people to carry through their struggle which in return contributes to the defence of peace in South-East Asia and the world and to the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America to get rid of colonialism and imperialism.

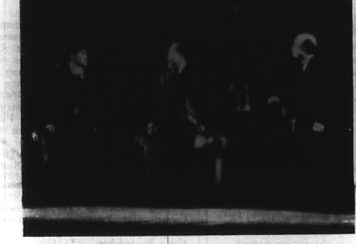
US neo-colonialism will certainly be overcome by the common resistance of the tri-continental peoples.

In Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzanian youths and students demonstrate against US aggression in Viet Nam

"KREMLIN CHIMES" on Viet Nam Stage

AT the end of 1969, the Ministry of Culture gave orders to the Vietnamese Spoken Theatre to stage the play *Kremlin Chimes* (of the well-known Soviet playwright Nikolai Pogodin, translated into the Vietnamese by The Lu) to be performed on the occasion of Lenin's centenary. This famous play reflects Lenin's longing to see the extensive electrification of Russia.

This is a heavy task for the Spoken Theatre since it is the first time that a great play and on Lenin at that appears on the Vietnamese stage. However, out of respect and affection for the great leader, it was resolved to complete its work in time. It sent to study in the Soviet Union a team of executive cadres, stage-managers, actors and actresses, makers-up, decorators, which was warmly received and enthusiastically helped by the Soviet Ministry of Culture and academic circles.



Upon its return to the country, the team has had only very little time to complete its work.

Great difficulties have arisen: the skill of the players, make-up, theatrical implements, decorations for this play are quite a problem. But, elated to be entrusted with such a work, all the team members have buckled down to their task with heart and soul; for weeks running they have known no rest even on Sundays. Worth mentioning are the strenuous efforts of Can Truong who would play the part of Lenin. With a mixed joy and anxiety, he said: "This is the greatest honour in my life as an artiste. But it gives me a great fright. For months on end I have never ceased thinking of the part I will take to embody the great Lenin."

The play has been rehearsed since the last three months with the assistance of Prof. Lesli Platon Vladiminovitch, an emigrant Russian artiste and Alexei Makedevitch, a make-up specialist, sent by the Soviet Ministry of Culture.

The *Kremlin Chimes* appeared for the first time before the Hanoi public on the night of April 22, 1970 in commemoration of the centenary of Lenin.

Photos:

Right: *An exhibition on* **Lenin and the Vietnamese Revolution** *was inaugurated in Hanoi on April 21. Premier Pham Van Dong (*and from the left) *was present at the inauguration.*

Left: *A scene of the* Kremlin Chimes *staged in Hanoi.*

TRUONG CHINH...

(Continued from page 1)

the socialist camp and the international communist and workers' movement, our Party stands for restoring and strengthening unity "on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism in a way consonant to the requirement of heart and reason." (President Ho Chi Minh's Testam-nt)

"To commemorate Lenin's birth centenary in a most worthy manner," Truong Chinh said, "the Vietnamese people must completely defeat the US aggressors and their flunkeys and at the same time, continue to build socialism successfully in North Viet Nam in order to achieve a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam."

Condemning the aggressive scheme of US imperialism, he said:

"The Nixon administration, while speaking of peace, is in fact prolonging its war of aggression in our country by 'Vietnamizing' it.

"According to US President Nixon's words and deeds, the 'Vietnamization' plan roughly includes three parts: to withdraw part of the US troops; to reinforce the puppet army; and accelerate 'pacification.'

"... Thus, 'Vietnamization' of the war does not mean to end the war as the Nixon administration has often claimed, but in fact it is to carry on the US war of aggression in Viet Nam with the puppet army together with an important part of the US forces, and convert the Southern part of our country into a US military base and neo-colony which is to be occupied permanently by the US like South Korea.

"The 'Vietnamization' plan is obviously part of Nixon's 'new doctrine' on Asia whose purpose is to 'make Asians fight Asians' for the sake of US neo-colonialist policy and global strategy."

Underlining the correct solution to end the war and restore peace in Viet Nam, Truong Chinh said:

"The point is that the US must withdraw completely, speedily and unconditionally its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam and leave the Vietnamese people to decide by themselves the internal affairs of Viet Nam without foreign interference.

"Stubbornly pursuing the 'Vietnamization' policy, the US imperialists have rejected all reasonable and logical proposals of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. **It is the task of the entire Vietnamese people to increase vigilance continually, strengthen solidarity, persevere in, and step up, the resistance war against US aggression, for national salvation in order to completely foil the 'Vietnamization' plan and any other scheme of the US imperialists against Viet Nam.**

"... US frantic acceleration of the 'Vietnamization' of the war in Viet Nam, escalation of the war in Laos and increased interference and subversion in Cambodia have shown even more clearly to the Indochinese countries that their most cruel and dangerous enemy is aggressive US imperialism. The peoples of the three Indochinese countries, bound by traditional ties, have strengthened their solidarity, and formed the Indochinese peoples' united front against the US imperialists and their lackeys to recover and safeguard the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity **of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, ensure for each country the opportunity to develop along the path of its own choice. As the US imperialists want to divide the Indochinese peoples, play them off against one another, the Indochinese peoples are closing further their ranks to wipe out their common enemy — US imperialism.** Those who sow the wind will reap the whirlwind!"

In the last part of his speech, Truong Chinh pointed out the present tasks of the North Vietnamese people, namely to endeavour to erase the aftermaths of the war of destruction, gradually re-adjust the economic activities to the new situation, boost the revolution of the production relations, the technical revolution and the ideological and cultural revolution, continue building the material and technical basis of socialism, improve step by step the people's living conditions, increase the economic and military potentials of our country, consolidate the rear base, sharpen revolutionary vigilance, be ready to frustrate all new schemes and acts of the US imperialists against North Viet Nam, and continue to fulfil their obligation toward the great and heroic front line.

In the immediate future our people must strive to fulfil the 1970 State plan, **mobilize the productive force of society, organize emulation drives, work in a revolutionary manner,** make good use of the existing material and technical basis and try to improve technique, rationalize production, improve our style of work and increase labour efficiency. We must regularly **strengthen and consolidate national defence,** Truong Chinh said.

He finally called on all Party members and the entire people to do their utmost to **carry forward President Ho Chi Minh's cause, fulfil all his last wishes and his ultimate wish** to build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution.

IN THE VAN OF THE NATION

THERE was a time when celebrating May Day was an offence for which one might be deported or even put to death. The colonialists fired at the demonstrators, arrested the "leaders" and banished them to Lao Bao or Poulo-Condor.

With a few hundred thousand men and women—a little more than one hundred per cent of the population—the Vietnamese working class did not seem a challenge to the colonial regime. However, the colonial administration and its organs of repression took a particular interest in these coal-mine workers, rubber-plantation "coolies," and railway workers—so small a strength though, as compared with their counterparts in industrialized countries.

But these few hundreds of thousands of men and women daily lived right in the heart of the most irreconcilable contradictions of the colonial regime: the working class daily and atrociously exploited by the big colonial companies knew and felt better than anyone that independence was the condition sine qua non of its own liberation. It was also the sole social class to keep modern enterprises going: this aspiration to the modernization of the national economy and culture long dreamed of by the entire nation, the working class nurtured and felt more deeply than any other social segment.

The founding of the Communist Party and the mastering of Marxism-Leninism were to enable the Party of the working class to assume leadership in the national struggle, which was a matter of course. Around the working class and under the direction of its Party, the other social strata, the peasantry in particular, then the petty bourgeoisie and the intelligentsia, have rallied to form a solid national front which has resisted all trials.

The fierce and heroic resistance against American imperialism and the successful building of socialism in the northern half of the country have further brought into relief the decisive role of the working class and its Party. Despite an implacable police round-up, in Saigon and other towns in South Viet Nam, for more than fifteen years the working class has never ceased militating, drawing the other social strata, in particular the students and other segments of labouring people into a grim and continual effort. Neither Saigon nor any other town in South Viet Nam can be a sanctuary for the aggressors, whatever means they may use to intensify their repression. This persistent struggle, often obscure and most arduous, often much less dramatic than guerilla or regular warfare engagements, requires none the less very high political consciousness, organizational capability and heroism. The South Viet Nam working class has honourably fulfilled this vanguard role which has befallen it.

In the North the fundamental task at present, i.e. modernization of the national economy and the conversion of small production into modern large-scale production, essentially rests with the working class. And one had not only to build but also to defend what had been built. "The hammer in one hand and the rifle in the other" was not a figure of speech. On the Ham Rong bridge the welders kept on working during the alerts. Near the bridge the power station with its sagging chimney and its walls pockmarked by shells and bullets continued to hum.

The whole country is like Ham Rong. Whether US planes are hovering above their heads or not, the Vietnamese workers are calmly discharging their duty. They are aware that beyond their frontiers the workers and people of other countries support them in their work and combat. It is as difficult — if not more — to fight against American aggression as to set up a modern industry in a country which has just emerged from many centuries of feudalism and nearly a century of colonialism. It takes a real revolution in techniques, management methods and thinking ways. Step by step, our working class led by its Party succeeds by dint of labour, patience and dedication in solving the thousand and one concrete problems which crop up at every moment. Step by step, it leads the entire nation in this ascending march. No force in the world can check this flight to the future.

In these days when we commemorate Lenin's centenary, we cannot but force fully reaffirm our confidence in the working class, in its Party, and our complete solidarity with the workers and labouring people of all countries. The Labour Day has become in Viet Nam a great festival for the entire nation

Landmarks in the Workers' Movement in Viet Nam

I — AGAINST FRENCH COLONIALISM

1919-1925

THE Vietnamese working class, born in the first French enterprises in the country before the national bourgeoisie, became a political force after World War I, when French capitalism stepped up the exploitation of the colonies to wipe out the war aftermaths.

The struggle began to be organized, the workers demanded wage-lifts, improvement of their living conditions, no ill-treatment, etc. Big strikes broke out at the Nam Dinh Weaving-Mill (1924), at the Bien Hoa Saw-Mill (late 1924) and especially at the Saigon arsenal (August 1925). In 1920 the first underground trade-unions were set up in Saigon-Cholon, sponsored by Ton Duc Thang, now President of the DRVN.

1926-1931

THERE was a marked increase in the workers' ranks: 220,000 workers in 1929. The Great October Revolution and the Chinese revolutionary movement had a strong impact in the country. The emergence of the *Viet Nam Thanh Nien Cach Mang Dong Chi Hoi* (Viet Nam Revolutionary Youth Association) and of the *Tan Viet Cach Mang Dang* (New Viet Nam Revolutionary Party) spurred the workers' movement which spread thoughout the country beginning 1926. Clandestine Red Trade-Unions were established in large towns and enterprises.

On February 3, 1930, the Indochinese Communist Party was founded. With its Party, the working class took over the leadership of the Vietnamese revolution the main force of which was the worker-peasant alliance. In 1929 and 1930 there took place many worker and peasant actions, big strikes involving tens of thousands of workers in rubber plantations, weaving-mills, railways, mines, power stations, match factories, glass works.

The labouring people in many localities of Nghe An and Ha Tinh set up "Soviets" in 1930. The movement was downed in blood by the colonialists and their agents.

1936-1939

OWING to outright terror, the workers' movement was at an ebb in 1932-1933. But since 1934 it urged up anew.

Taking advantage of the advent of the *Front Populaire* in France (1936), the Party founded the Indochinese Anti-Imperialist Popular Front, changed later on into the Indochinese Democratic Front. A vast movement for democratic reforms was launched which rallied broad strata of the people.

Strikes erupted continually in the large towns and industrial regions. Economic claims went along with political slogans (for democratic freedoms and trade-union rights, support to the worker candidates to the elections at the Chamber of People's Representatives and Municipal Councils), committees of action were set up, meetings were held to discuss the claims to put forward at the Indochinese Congress, workers' delegations lodged petitions with their employers and the colonial administration.

In September 1939, the colonialists staged ruthless repression, dissolved the workers' organizations, closed down progressive papers and arrested militants. Many among the latter were indicted and executed. The Party went underground.

1941-1945

HOWEVER, the workers' movement was not stamped. After *l'Annuaire des Statistiques de l'Indochine* (1939-1946), there were:

— 1939-1940: 1,667 individual clashes and 100 collective clashes
— 1940-1941: 1,152 " — 66 "
— 1941-1942: 1,024 " — 32 "

Clandestine trade-unions were set up.

In May 1941 while the Japanese occupied the country, the Viet Minh Front came into being.

The workers founded associations for national salvation to defend their daily interests, and established formations of self-defence as well as revolutionary committees in the enterprises.

In Nam Bo, underground organizations were again established. The Nam Bo Federation of Trade-Unions was set up in April 1945, comprising 200 organizations with 115,000 members.

With the founding of the DRVN in 1945, the working class has become, together with the Vietnamese people, the masters of the country. It now wields the power.

(In this article we do not deal further on the struggle it has waged to foil the return of French colonialism and build the socialist structure in liberated North Viet Nam).

II — AGAINST U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM (in South Viet Nam)

AGAINST the American intervention and the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, the workers' struggle has taken the character of a revolutionary movement, closely combining national goals with class interests, immediate interests with long-term ones. The working class has rallied the various strata of the population and spearheaded the struggle at the main enemy: American imperialism and puppet administration.

Since 1955 the workers' movement has continually maintained itself and forged ahead in South Viet Nam.

1955-1959

THE working class concentrated its struggle on the revendication for freedom, democracy, the peaceful reunification of the country and the re-establishment of normal relations between the North and the South, while putting forward claims for the improvement of living conditions.

The mottoes set great store by the interests of the peasants, the middle classes, the soldiers and functionaries of the Saigon administration.

Workers' strikes multiplied year after year: 504 collective actions and 5,598 individual ones in 1956 as against 292 and 4,596 in 1955.

The workers made each Labour Day a demonstration of force: 200,000 demonstrators in 1957 in Saigon, more than 500,000 the next year.

1960 - 1964

THE NFL was founded. The successes of the peasants' political and armed struggle stimulated the workers' struggle. The Association of Workers for Liberation was founded to become in 1965 the South Viet Nam Federation of Trade-Unions for Liberation.

In 1960, 1,500 workers' actions broke out in the Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh region alone under various forms.

After Diem's fall, the workers' movement acquired fresh vigour. The continual strikes contributed to undermine the enemy's political bases, deteriorate his economy and seriously hinder his war efforts.

On September 21, 1964, 100,000 Saigon workers went on strike. The city was deprived of electricity, water and transport means. All communications with abroad were cut off.

1965 - 1970

LET us mention the most representative workers' struggles. On May 1st, 1966, 30,000 workers and other toilers demonstrated in front of the American Embassy. July, August and September 1966 were three months of sustained struggle by the workers of the companies Caltex, Esso, Shell, RMK-BRJ and the dockers against the arrests of their fellows and repression and for democratic freedoms. The workers used torches to beat the policemen and disarm the Americans. They fell trees to stop military vehicles, set up fires to bar the traffic, and sacked US information halls.

Petitions, "teach-ins", strikes with or without time limit, sit-down strikes (Bata footwear factory, BGI soda factory in 1967), general strikes involving many factories or many localities, erupted continually.

Economic revendications went along with slogans for democratic freedoms, against drafts, raids, toxic chemical sprayings, slaughters of civilians.

Since the spring of 1968, war is brought into the towns with the participation of toilers and students in many military actions.

At the end of 1968 and at the beginning of 1969, the workers of nearly all the enterprises in the ports held conferences, general assemblies to draw up petitions. In Saigon, three conferences were organized within a week of March 1969, particularly in the An Quang pagoda where 7,000 workers and other toilers protested against the condemnation of Superior Bonze Thich Thien Minh. On March 12 and 13, 1969, together with representatives of other social strata, the workers in Bac Lieu town held 15 conferences demanding an end to the war and the opening of serious talks with the NFL. On May 1st, 1969, 500 delegates of 123 trade-unions met to denounce the attempts at sabotage of the workers' movement by the authorities and protest against the draft of workers upwards of 43 years...

Workers' militia — formations of self-defence of guerilla—are established in the towns, which succeed in many places in breaking the enemy's power apparatus. Commandos of workers go to the assault of the US-puppet lairs.

THE VIETNAMESE WORKER

YESTERDAY

(Under the Colonialist Regime)

THEY were day-labourers (at the Viet Tri - Lao Cai railway construction site, in 1903 - 1905—Ed.) who, of course, drew no pay when they fell ill or when they did not report for work... This did not prevent the bosses from pillorying them for their absence as if they were convicts or criminals. They did not receive their starvation wages directly from the cashier but through overseers who sought by hook or by crook to dock their wages. These coolies toiled and moiled day in day out... They were lean, ragged, grimmy...; the dried fishes were rotten; no sanitation in the houses; the coolies were stalled like buffaloes, oxen, or pigs; no kitchen, practically no W.C.

The following figures give some idea of the state of health and mortality rate of workers after more than a year's work at the yard:

— Number of coolies: 14,787
— Sick workers: 3,938
— Deaths 525

(these were "official" figures supplied by the colonialists, which are naturally far below reality).

Tran Van Giau
The Vietnamese Working Class
Su That Publishing House

APART from many labour accidents, malaria and cholera were prevalent. The mine ran an infirmary which "received" the patients with a bastinado. Nobody dared to come there. Only dying persons were brought there... Epidemics of cholera were frequent: those of 1926 carried off thousands of workers. People who had cholera "symptoms" were also buried alive. At present there still lives in Hongay an old worker, Mr Lac, who survived such a burial...

Tran Van Giau
The Vietnamese Working Class

WHILE the life of an Annamese is not worth a cent, for a scratch on the arm, Mr Inspector General Reinhardt receives 120,000 francs as allowances.

Nguyen Ai Quoc
French Colonialism on Trial

TODAY

(Since the August 1945 Revolution)

THE TU law promulgated on November 5, 1957 safeguards the essential interests of the working class.

ART. 5 of Decree No 188-TTG signed by the Prime Minister on April 9, 1958, says: *"In order to encourage innovations and make it possible for all workers and employees to take directly part in the management of enterprises and play a supervisory role, the manager must report periodically to the workers' and employees' general meetings on the execution of the plan of production, the state of affairs, the implementation of labour legislation and rules."*

ART. 6 of the same decree stipulates: *"At these general meetings, workers and employees have the right to debate the manager's reports, give their opinion on the business of the enterprise or criticize the manager's work."* The same article writes: *"With regard to the improvement of living conditions and social insurances, the manager must examine and carry out the resolutions of the workers and employees' general meeting. Through this meeting, the workers can give their advice on the fixation of norms and salaries and on the rational utilisation of the social fund in order to improve their diets, lodgings and recreations, according to the case."*

ON a suggestion of the workers, the March 8th Textile Factory, composed mostly of female workers, runs its crèche and kindergarten on a round-the-clock basis; the restaurants of the Hanoi Engineering Plant and Soap Factory have improved their cooking to satisfy all purses and "tastes."

IN case of illness, the workers and employees (including the retired) are given free medicare (medical examination, medicines, hospital frees, sanatorium). (Article 6 of the Provisional Regulation on Social Insurances applied since Jan. 1, 1962)

Most of the sanatoriums and rest homes recently built with enterprises' social funds in the most beautiful sea and mountain resorts of North Viet Nam (Tra Co, Bai Chay, Do Son, Sam Son, Nhat Le, Tam Dao, Ba Vi, Chapa, etc.) are at the disposal of the workers on sick leave or regular paid leave.

Members of the workers' militia in the Quang Ninh coal-mines

KHMERS CONTINUE TO OPPOSE COUP MAKERS

ON the night of April 11 thousands of Khmers, in co-ordination with the patriotic armed forces, rose up and encircled Korek post (Kompong Cham province) defended by Lon Nol-Matak troops, it is reported from Cambodia.

On the next morning, Khmer patriotic armed forces intercepted the enemy coming from Suong region to the rescue of their beleaguered mates. Over 200 Lon Nol-Matak soldiers were put out of action.

The next day, the enemy evacuated Korek.

After the seizure of that post thousands of inhabitants from Trapong Pholong, Trapeng Rangxong, Keong Kang and Korek, equipped with side-arms, staged an armed demonstration on the night of 14, captured three henchmen of the Lon Nol-Matak clique, and held a meeting to proclaim the abolition of the local reactionary administration and the founding of the Provisional FUNK Committee in the locality.

INDONESIAN RULING CIRCLES OVERTLY SIDE WITH CAMBODIAN REACTIONARIES

THE Indonesian ruling circles have, over the past days on many occasions, overtly declared their support to the reactionary coup d'état engineered by the US imperialists in Cambodia.

Only three days after the coup took place, Adam Malik, Foreign Minister of Indonesia, declared: "There is no need to renew our recognition of Cambodia since the change was a constitutional one." His statement was almost identical with that of US press officer Carl Bartch who declared on March 19: "Our position is that the question of recognition [of the new regime in Cambodia] does not arise," adding "this means that recognition continues."

In spite of high public indignation in all continents at the bloody repression of the Cambodian people by the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique and the latter's monstrous crimes against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, the Indonesian ruling circles have done their best to serve the Cambodian reactionary authorities' preparations to bring Cambodia completely under the US sway, by using the fallacious charge of "communist aggression" and claim of the "necessity to preserve Cambodia's neutrality." Adam Malik on several occasions gave full backing to the Cambodian reactionary authorities' proposal to reactivate the International Control Commission. He is now busy selling his plan to convene a so-called Asian nations' conference to discuss the developments in Cambodia and create a diplomatic pressure allegedly intended "to force the Viet Cong and North Viet Nam to withdraw their troops from Cambodia."

The same Malik also proved overzealous in responding to Lon Nol's request for military assistance. He said: "Indonesia would aid Cambodia if requested." *AP* revealed on April 17 that "four Indonesian officials including two military officers, one military intelligence man and one civilian government official have quietly arrived in Phnom Penh to consider Cambodia's appeal for military assistance."

As early as in late March, Adam Malik already indicated that Indonesia was ready to aid Cambodia. Reporting this, *Reuter* on March 31 noted that he had made the statement even before Lon Nol made a speech to announce that Cambodia would probably request assistance from "friendly countries" like the US, France or Indonesia.

All the above-mentioned moves of the Indonesian ruling circles provide a further proof of the arch-reactionary nature of the Nasution-Adam Malik clique which is but a bird of the same feather as the Lon Nol - Matak clique in Cambodia.

SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH JUNTAS' COLLUSION IN MASSACRES OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS

In face of strong public condemnation of their horrible massacres of hundreds of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique are trying to deny their crimes while keeping up their persecution and killing of other Vietnamese nationals. The "Ministry of Information" of the coup makers has issued a series of "communiques" and "denials" claiming that "it is not their policy to persecute and massacre Vietnamese," that "there has been no anti-Viet Nam campaign," and that what happened were only "security measures."

Earlier the Phnom Penh authorities had spread lies and calumnies of all kinds. First, they asserted that the Prasaut killing was an "accident of war." Later, they cooked up the story of "shipwreck" on the Mekong River, and even charged the "Vietcongs" with murdering those Vietnamese then throwing their bodies into the Mekong.

All this only shows the Phnom Penh coup makers' disregard for public opinion.

Reuter reported that on April 20, bodies of mutilated Vietnamese continued to float down the Mekong past Neak Leang ferry. The same agency also reported that at least 60 bodies had been counted at this ferry since hundreds of others were seen floating since Sunday April 12.

Most recently, the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique committed another odious crime. Stepping in the ruts of the Nazis, on April 21 they trucked a number of Vietnamese residents, mostly children, aged persons and women, to a post of their armed forces in Saang, more than 60 km south of Phnom Penh, and forced them to march ahead holding white flags, between the fire - line of their forces and that of the patriotic armed forces of Cambodia. Western reports estimated at over 60 people killed, in the ensuing fire - fight.

In their frantic campaign of terror against the Vietnamese residents, the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak has been working hand in glove with the Saigon puppet administration. Following the Prasaut pogrom, the "Foreign Ministry" of the Saigon administration put out a communique alleging that the atrocities were "involuntary." The Saigon puppets have also announced their intention to send a delegation to Cambodia to discuss with the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique plans to clamp down on the Vietnamese residents and coerce them to return to South Viet Nam.

THE mass slayings of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia are aimed at sowing enmity between the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples, undermining their long-standing militant solidarity and diverting public attention from the true colours of the coup makers in Cambodia as US hirelings. These joining hands with their Saigon confederates intend to frighten the Vietnamese nationals back to South Viet Nam to serve as cannon-fodder for the US aggressors and the Saigon clique of traitors, in furtherance of Washington's "Vietnamization of the war" program.

Photos:

Bodies of Vietnamese nationals slain by Lon Nol — Matak troops littered the ground of a concentration camp at Prasaut, Svay Rieng

Corpses of Vietnamese residents murdered by Cambodian reactionary authorities were seen floating down the Mekong River

NIXON'S SPEECH SCALPED

"THE speech delivered by Mr. Nixon on April 20th last is aimed at camouflaging his bellicose schemes and acts by professions of peace," said Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy, representative of the DRVN, at the 64th session of the Paris Conference. "Mr. Nixon wishes to turn all the Indochinese countries into US new-type colonies and military bases, within the framework of the US global strategy. One can witness in the last decades a gradual escalation in the US aggressive scheme against the Indochinese nations; this is a truth which cannot be denied by any fallacious statements by Mr. Nixon," Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy added.

He also rejected the threat levelled by Nixon, and reaffirmed the self-defence right of the Vietnamese people, saying: "The Vietnamese people has a long record of solidarity with the Lao and Cambodian peoples in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Our three peoples will pool their efforts to thwart all manoeuvres of the US *vis-à-vis* Indochina."

Thieu's Repression Against South Viet Nam Students

The Students' First Trial Foiled

IT was a court martial, a special one that was held on last April 20 to try the students arrested since early March for opposition to the puppet regime. These arrests came after widespread powerful general protest of 60,000 students supported by the population of the occupied cities. There were only seventeen accused in the dock. Western correspondents noted that they were lame and so weak that they had to lean against one another when walking. Many showed fingers with nails removed or their bodies covered with bruises.

Meanwhile Thieu police cracked down on the students' demonstrations before the Upper House and the Lower House of the puppet National Assembly as well as before the law-court where the trial was in progress.

Thieu agents gave specious explanations on the absence of four accused on the grounds that they were sick whereas the jail physician testified that their health had been restored to normal. The tribunal ignored the protest of the barristers who mentioned the torture the students had been put to by policemen. They referred to the statements of the accused and the traces of brutality left on their bodies, and a report of the puppet parliament commission after a visit to Chi Hoa prison on last April 18.

The defendants laid bare the anticonstitutional character of this case in which seperation of powers was infringed upon by its chief judge appointed by Thieu. Driven to a corner, after long tergiversations it decided to hand over the case to the "Supreme Court" and therefore recognized for the first time the illegality of this special court set up by the puppet administration. It also decided to set free ten among the accused conditionally. Local and foreign newspapers held that it was a student victory over the puppet clique.

Right after their release, the freed men publicly denounced the policemen's fascist methods.

A 18-year-old girl, Miss Truong Thi Kim Lien, revealed that she was charged with treason for having rent a room to a student. She had been heinously tortured during five days on end; the policemen had poured salted water into her mouth and nostrils and sent electricity into her ears. The executors had forced her to admit that she was a "liaison agent of the Viet Cong" and to sign a "spontaneous confession" the content of which she could not read. Owing to the tortures she could not move for many a day.

Vo Ba, a student of the Science Faculty, aged 23, declared to an *AP* correspondent in Saigon that he had been savagely beaten up on his thenars, knees, shoulders and back. His mates had pins driven under their nails. Their arms, chests and genitals were burnt by burning cigarette stumps or connected to an electric current.

DRVN GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

odious crimes committed by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. At present, such crimes are still occurring daily, thus seriously threatening the lives, property and normal daily life of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

Vietnamese residents are honest people who have been living in Cambodia for decades, and some families, for generations; they always respect the laws of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the customs of the Khmer people. They have contributed to the strengthening of the long-standing friendship and militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples in the struggle against the common enemy, namely the US imperialist aggressors, in order to safeguard their independence and freedom and to ensure for each country the ability to develop according to its own way.

The Lon Nol – Sirik Matak clique's fanning up of a psychosis of hatred between the two peoples, and savage terrorizing and slaughtering of the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, is a vilest and cruellest scheme, aiming at covering up their true nature as stooges of the US imperialists, at undermining the independence and neutrality of Cambodia, at thwarting the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, at serving the US scheme of intensification and expansion of the war to the whole of Indochina.

Public opinion is fully aware that the US imperialists have suffered most heavy setbacks in South Viet Nam, and are getting beaten in their "special war" in Laos and have repeatedly failed in their plot against peaceful and neutral Cambodia. The military collusion between the United States and the Thieu - Ky-Khiem puppet administration, and the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique, as well as all base and savage schemes of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique can decidedly not help the US stave off a total defeat in Indochina, and cannot sap the heartfelt friendship between the Vietnamese people and the Khmer people.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam strongly condemns, and denounces to world public opinion, the cruel schemes and the most atrocious crimes committed by the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam firmly insists that the present Cambodian administrative organs stop all massacres, acts of terror and discrimination against Vietnamese residents. The present Cambodian administration in Phnom Penh and other administrative bodies at all levels in Cambodia must bear full responsibility for their atrocities. The murderers of Vietnamese residents must pay for their crimes.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam call on Vietnamese residents in Cambodia to closely unite with each other, strengthen their friendship with the Khmer people, and resolutely defend their lives and property, and resist all acts of terror and plunder on the part of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique, oppose all intimidation, deception and allurement by the US and its agents seeking to force them to move to areas in South Viet Nam still occupied by the US and puppets.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam call on the fraternal Khmer people who are well-known for their peace-loving traditions and for their solidarity and friendship with the Vietnamese people, to safeguard in time the militant solidarity between the two countries and stay the bloody hands of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak reactionary clique who are terrorizing and massacring the Vietnamese residents.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam call on the fraternal socialist countries, the governments of peace- and justice-loving countries as well as the people of the world, to sternly condemn the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique of fascists and racists, to resolutely protest against their lending a hand to the US imperialists in prolonging and expanding the war in Indochina, and urge that they put an immediate end to all criminal acts against the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

Hanoi, April 18, 1970

★ ★ ★

— On the evening of April 18, a grand meeting was organized by the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee and its Hanoi branch and the Special Representation of the South Viet Nam Republic Provisional Revolutionary Government in the DRVN, in protest against the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and in support of the DRVN Government statement on this subject.

— Statements sternly condemning these atrocities were also issued by many mass organizations such as the Lawyers' Association, the Viet Nam Committee of Asian-African Solidarity, the Viet Nam Peace Committee, the Buddhists' United Association, the Women's Union, the Red Cross, etc.

— Requiems in memory of the Vietnamese residents murdered in Cambodia were solemnly held on April 19 at Da Minh Church and Quan Su Pagoda (Hanoi) under the sponsorship of the Buddhists' United Association and the National Liaison Committee of Vietnamese Catholics.

— In South Viet Nam the Provisional Revolutionary Government made public on April 20 a statement strongly denouncing the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique's mass killings of Vietnamese residents. Others have been made by the South Viet Nam Committee of Asian - African Solidarity, the Women's Union for Liberation, the Buddhists' Association, etc.

— In Saigon, a five hours' meeting was held at Cho Lon on April 17 by Saigonese students. The demonstrators carried posters flaying the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak reactionaries and sang peace songs. They were about to burn Lon Nol effigies when policemen dispersed them with tear gas grenades.

Many Saigon "legal" newspapers protested against Lon Nol - Sirik Matak's crimes and stigmatized the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration which were striving to take up the cudgel on behalf of their Cambodian counterparts, thus once more laying bare their nature as betrayers of the national interests.

A WAR SPEECH

THE partial elections in the US will take place in November next. In face of an American opinion more and more critical of the prolongation of the Viet Nam war, Mr. Nixon has had to profess peace again. On April 20, he spectacularly announced a withdrawal of 150,000 troops from Viet Nam.

Let's be more specific. This withdrawal will be:

— spread over one year, which means an average of 12,000 men per month,

— conditioned, linked to the progress of "Vietnamization" to the assurance that the remaining GIs would not be exposed to heavy attacks.

By rotations and replacements, there is always a movement of troops between the US and Viet Nam which by far exceeds the monthly figure of 12,000. As a past master in this game, Washington will as ever know how to juggle with figures so as to make people believe that the repatriation of US troops has been effected as scheduled. It suffices, above all, to refer from time to time to the threat looming over the remaining US forces to stop them. To associate that withdrawal with the success of the puppet army, security of US troops of occupation, is, if not to delay it *sine die*, at least to give this conditional withdrawal an "elasticity" sufficient enough to enable the US Command to carry out its war plans.

Suppose Mr. Nixon keeps his promises, in 1971 there will always remain:

— 285,000 GIs in South Viet Nam, not including mercenaries from satellite countries,

— nearly one million puppet troops,

— the Seventh Fleet,

— the US bases in Thailand from where hundreds of aircraft, including B-52, take off daily.

The US war machine in Viet Nam will thus remain as it was, with the only difference that if there are less GIs in the field, there will be more puppet troops, more shells and bombs, and chemicals poured by US artillery and aircraft.

There is also the fact that Washington has stepped up the war in Laos and tried to establish its domination over Cambodia through the agency of the Lon Nol – Matak clique. More than ever, US imperialism seeks through the war to lord it over the Indochinese peoples. Mr. Nixon makes no bones that he does not pin much hope on the Paris talks.

In April 1954, while the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu was at bay, Mr. Nixon, then US Vice-President, insisted upon throwing US. forces into the tussle. Sixteen years later, the "hawk" Nixon is still the same. It is up to the peace fighters in the States and the world to give a relevant answer to the warlike scheme of the US president.

DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT ON NIXON'S ADDRESS

ON April 20, 1970, President Nixon spoke about the so-called "plan to bring a just peace to Viet Nam." In essence, it is a continuation of the plan of "Vietnamizing" the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Nixon claimed that the United States desired nothing more than a negotiated settlement aimed at withdrawing all US troops and letting the South Vietnamese people determine their future and bringing a "just peace" to Viet Nam. Nevertheless, the Nixon administration still obdurately demands a "mutual withdrawal" so as to refuse to withdraw all US troops; it is obdurately maintaining the rotten Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration, feverishly carrying out "pacification," repressing and massacring most savagely South Vietnamese; Nixon continues to block the progress of the Paris Conference and oppose the reasonable and logical 10-point solution of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Obviously, "Vietnamization" of the war does not mean ending the war as has been claimed by the Nixon administration, but continuation of the US war of aggression in Viet Nam through the agency of puppet troops and an important part of US troops, through the use of Vietnamese to fight against Vietnamese in the vain hope of carrying out the US imperialists' schemes in South Viet Nam and a lasting partition of Viet Nam.

Nixon announced plans for the withdrawal of an additional 450,000 American troops to be completed during the Spring of 1971 and called this a move from a period of "cut and try" to a "longer-range program for the replacement of Americans by South Vietnamese troops." The purpose is to delay the withdrawal of US troops and prolong indefinitely the occupation of US aggressive troops in South Viet Nam and also to deceive public opinion in the United States and the world which has been pressing that the Nixon administration withdraw rapidly and set a time limit for the withdrawal of all US troops from South Viet Nam.

The US President has brazenly misrepresented the patriotic struggle of the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, slanderously and odiously charged the Vietnamese people—who are waging a just struggle against the US aggressors—of invading Indochina.

His ulterior motive is to sow the seeds of discord among the Indochinese peoples and to cover up US intervention and aggression in Indochina. It also aims at lending a hand to the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique of fascists who in the name of false independence and neutralism are ruthlessly terrorizing the Khmer people and savagely massacring Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

The "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam and the expansion of the war to all the three countries in Indochina are the essence of Nixon's "new doctrine" on Asia, the aim of which is to pit Asians against Asians in an attempt to carry out the US imperialists' reactionary global strategy. The hypocritical peace professions put forth in the April 20, 1970 address cannot conceal the Nixon Administration's obdurate scheme of prolonging the war in Viet Nam, escalating the war in Laos; expanding the intervention and aggression to Cambodia. With the strengthening of their close solidarity, the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos will surely foil all the aggressive designs of the US imperialists.

Nixon insolently threatened that he "will take strong and effective measures" against the Vietnamese people. But the latter, in their flush of repeated successes in their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, persist in their stepped-up struggle on the three fronts: military, political and diplomatic; they are resolved to carry out President Ho Chi Minh's Testament, tenaciously keep up their resistance till attainment of the fundamental national rights recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. No intimidation whatsoever can shake the iron will of the Vietnamese people to fight and win in their just war.

"The Vietnamese people firmly demand the withdrawal of all US and satellite troops, not the withdrawal of only 25,000 or 250,000 or 500,000 men, but a total, complete, and unconditional withdrawal" as President Ho Chi Minh said on July 20, 1969.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam call on the Governments and peoples of the fraternal socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries, the progressive American people and the people of the whole world to further intensify the drive for an end to the US war of aggression, the quick, total and unconditional withdrawal from South Viet Nam of the US troops and those of the foreign countries of the US camp, renunciation of the US scheme to maintain the puppet administration and right for the South Vietnamese people to settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference.

The Vietnamese people's just struggle will certainly win total victory.

Hanoi, April 23, 1970

FRANCE'S PROPOSAL VIEWED BY Mme NGUYEN THI BINH AS UNPRACTICAL AT THIS JUNCTURE

ANSWERING a question on the French Government's proposal for an enlarged international conference to settle the Indochinese question, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, said at a press conference in Paris:

"We have received from the French Foreign Ministry a copy of the April 1st, 1970 statement of the French Government's proposal on a new international conference on Indochina.

"The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government holds that as regards the Viet Nam questions, there is at present the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. This conference began over a year ago and we have put forth our 10-point overall solution.

"On the Lao issue, there is the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, and the Lao Patriotic Front has also proposed a 5-point solution, which demands that first of all the US aggressors stop their bombings and their aggression in Laos and let the Lao people settle their internal affairs.

"About the Cambodian problem, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk has urged that the US end its aggression in Cambodia and respect Cambodia's independence, sovereignty and neutrality.

"Therefore, the settlement of the three afore-said questions calls for an end to US aggression in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and the right for the people of these three countries to settle themselves their own affairs. Therefore in our opinion, France's proposal is not practical at this juncture."

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Heavy U.S.-Puppet Losses in Tay Ninh, Phan Thiet, Cam Ranh, Nha Trang, Biao, Dac Pet, Dac Sieng and Quang Tri

★ 700 GIs, 100 US tanks and armoured cars put out of action in 3 engagements on April 13 and 14, and 22 other vehicles wrecked on the 17th, northeast of **Tay Ninh.**

★ 8.5 million litres of fuel set on fire in **Nha Trang** during a PLAF shelling on April 6.

★ Fierce PLAF assaults on US "Special Forces" camps at **Dac Pet** (April 12-17) and **Dac Sieng** (April 18-21), 4 enemy companies knocked out or decimated, 230 men killed or wounded, 7 big guns destroyed, 700 tons of fuel set ablaze and 9 aircraft downed.

★ US position **Ca Lu** and puppet base **Tan Dien** (Quang Tri province, northernmost part of South Viet Nam) completely flattened on April 9 and 14 respectively, one US company wiped out, 100 puppet soldiers, 29 tanks and armoured cars put out of action and 2 helicopters grounded.